

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, February 26, 2009**

Chair Paulson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Duane Paulson (Chair), Jim Jeskewitz, Pauline Jaske, Janel Brandtjen, and Kathleen Cummings. Gilbert Yerke arrived at 1:04 p.m. Brandtjen left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

**Absent:** Bill Zaborowski.

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Ann Olson, Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Don Maurer, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Administrative Services Manager Russ Kutz, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Director Cathy Bellovary, Intake & Support Services Manager Antwayne Robertson, and Economic Support Services Coordinator Luann Page. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

### **Approve Minutes of 11-13-08 & 2-12-09**

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve the minutes of November 13. Jaske asked that two corrections be made to the minutes. Motion carried 5-0 as corrected

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Jaske to approve the minutes of February 12.

Yerke arrived at 1:04 p.m.

Motion carried 6-0.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

March 12

### **State Legislative and Budget Update**

Krahn discussed AB75 – the state budget bill. Staff have just begun to peruse the document which is about 1,700 pages long. Krahn said a meeting including Department of Administration, Courts, and Human Services staff was held recently to discuss some of the major issues that are in the budget. Staff are anticipating across-the-board cuts affecting community aids, basic county allocation (BCA), youth aids, mental illness and substance abuse, income maintenance, etc. In addition, juvenile correctional institution (JCI) rates will increase. Krahn advised that funding for human services is very bleak and this is probably the worst state budget impact on counties in 25 to 30 years. Krahn suggested this be agendized for further discussion at the end of March or early April when staff are able to discuss in greater detail, the specific impacts on Waukesha County. Maurer referred to recent newspaper articles about Madison announcing federal dollars that will help human services. He stressed that this does not translate to counties.

Yerke, a member of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Board, said CDBG funds likely will not be cut and may actually increase. However, due to rising administrative costs, approximately nine or ten programs that received funding in the past may not receive funding this year. It is also possible that some programs may receive more funding, assuming the grant amount

remains the same or increases. Yerke noted that many of these programs are tied to human services programs. Bellovary advised if funds are cut for the taxi services, this could have a huge impact on their budget. More individuals will turn to Rideline, a more costly alternative.

### **Review Health & Human Services Fund Balances**

Kutz distributed fund balance information on Human Services Fund 150, Long Term Care Fund 310, and Mental Health Center Fund 350 which he discussed as outlined. He noted these are working, draft documents and are only projections. It is estimated that by the end of 2011 \$25,959 will remain in Fund 150; \$45,416 will remain in Fund 310; and \$222,239 will remain in Fund 350. Kutz said he believes we are on track and so far numbers for 2008 are looking positive. He went on to explain the Family Care payment schedule and the ADRC program space capital project as it relates to fund balance.

### **Presentation on Badger Care, Outcomes and Effect on Workload**

Robertson and Page were present to discuss this issue as outlined in their handouts on the State's BadgerCare Plus health insurance program. Page explained BadgerCare Plus which replaced BadgerCare in February of 2008. She said the State rolled all of the Medicaid programs for families into BadgerCare Plus. Prior to last October, there were 28 different programs, each with a different title. With BadgerCare Plus, caretaker relatives may now be eligible.

BadgerCare Plus can provide health insurance coverage to all children (birth to age 19) regardless of income, pregnant women with family income up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), parents and relatives who care for a child with family income up to 200% of the FPL, parents whose children are in foster care with a family income up to 200% of the FPL, farmers and other self-employed parents with family income up to 200% of the FPL, and young adults (ages 18 through 20) who are leaving foster care and turn age 18 on or after January 1, 2008, regardless of income. Recipients do pay premiums.

Page noted that BadgerCare Plus Childless Adult will begin in July of this year for single adults without children who have an income up to 150% of the FPL. Page said the State is projecting that about 80,000 individuals statewide will be eligible.

Page indicated they did not receive any statistics for the first five months of BadgerCare Plus, however, they did receive a later report which listed Waukesha County as having a 2.36% increase in new enrollees. The State is estimating, at a minimum, that 400 new families in Waukesha County have become eligible for State insurance although Page believes this figure could be 500 or 600. Page said it has been very busy and due to current economic conditions, staff are finding it very difficult to meet the 30-day processing guideline. Other impacts on staff include extremely complicated self-employment cases, systems used to process cases do not work properly, and the State has fallen behind on fixing systems/processing premium payments. They have five workers just handling BadgerCare Plus and their current average caseload is about 750 to 775. In addition to processing BadgerCare Plus, caseworkers are responsible for processing some FoodShare and child care applications.

Maurer said in anticipation of the ADRC and regular growth, they unfunded several positions in order to "fund up" two economic support positions during the last budget process. Maurer said these "were a drop in the bucket." Even when caseloads were at their lowest, we weren't in good

shape. Other counties are experiencing the same problems. Paulson said he understood the difficulty they face due to the staff shortage and he appreciates what they are doing. Schuler went on to explain problems with the State pertaining to this issue and anticipated issues due to program expansion in July.

Page said half of their staff are located at the Workforce Development Center along with two supervisors. Also located at the center are Arbor Employment & Training, The Kaiser Group, Workforce Development, Inc., the Division of Vocation and Rehabilitation, and others.

### **Tour the Workforce Development Center**

The committee went on a tour of the Workforce Development Center located at the WCTC campus in Pewaukee.

Brandtjen left the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- For a March or April meeting: Presentation on Budget Impacts on Waukesha County (Krahn)
- Update on Community Cares and Care Wisconsin (Brandtjen)

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Jaske to adjourn at 3:40 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved on:\_\_\_\_\_

Kathleen M. Cummings  
Secretary